

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00
USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 /072 W
-----115412 241207Z /23

R 240410Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6224
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 693

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0665

PARIS FOR DEA

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, US, UN, AF
SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF US AND UN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN
AFGHANISTAN

REF: (A) GENEVA 0640 (B) KABUL 0301 (C) KABUL 0235 (D) KABUL
0088 (E) PARIS 1745

1. SUMMARY: THIS EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT PRIOR CON-
SULTATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE US AND UN ARE NECESSARY
BEFORE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROPOSALS ARE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERN-
MENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) FOR THE LATTER'S CONSIDERATION.
END SUMMARY

2. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY HAS ARGUED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE
MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO ANTI-OPIUM PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN
(REFTEL B), WE DO NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE FOR THE US SIDE TO
WITHDRAW FROM INVOLVEMENT WITH THE UN AGENCIES AS MUCH AS GENEVA
APPEARS TO BE RECOMMENDING IN REFTTEL A. IF WE WERE TO WAIT FOR
ACTION IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS AREA TO BE GENERATED BY SOME "IMPETUS"
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FROM THE GOA, LITTLE, IF ANYTHING WOULD EVER BE ACCOMPLISHED
HERE. TO SUGGEST THAT THE US SIDE RESTRICT ITSELF TO "ENERGIZING"
THE GOA TO ARTICULATE ITS PERCEIVED NEEDS TO THE UNFDAC" DOES NOT
TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE REALITY OF THE THREE-SIDED GOA-UN-US
RELATIONSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY AS IT HAS OPERATED FOR SOME TIME
HERE.

3. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, OUR ONLY POINT OF WORKING CONTACT WITH THE GOA ON A POLICY LEVEL RE NARCOTICS MATTERS IS ONE MAN, AFGHAN NARCOTICS COORDINATOR MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI (WHO, INCIDENTIALLY, WILL BE AWAY FROM KABUL UNTIL LATE FEBRUARY). THROUGH EXPERIENCE, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT MAROOFI IS BEST APPROACHED ONLY AFTER THE UN AND US SIDES HAVE WORKED OUT AN AGREED, COORDINATED PROPOSAL. AS A MATTER OF FACT, MAROOFI RECENTLY REMINDED US THAT THE GOA REQUIRES THIS PROCEDURE. TO TRY TO "ENERGIZE" MAROOFI WITH SOME US IDEA WE THINK HE SHOULD TAKE UP WITH UN NARCOTICS ADVISOR MAGNUSSEN WOULD USUALLY RESULT IN GETTING THE NOSES OF BOTH GENTLEMEN OUT OF JOINT. THEREFORE, PRIOR UN-US CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION HERE CONTINUES TO BE ESSENTIAL TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS.

4. REFTTEL A ADDRESSES ONLY THE HANDLING OF THE DEMETRE PROJECT IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENEVA MEETING PROPOSED IN REFTELS C AND D. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NOW IN THE OVEN TWO OTHER IMPORTANT AND QUITE COMPLICATED US INITIATIVES WHICH MUST BE WORKED OUT IN DETAIL WITH THE INTERESTED UN AGENCIES BEFORE THEY CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH THE GOA: (A) DEA'S IMPORTANT PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH UNNA MAGNUSSEN'S ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IS TO BE MANAGED AND FINANCED (REFTTEL E), AND (B) THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL THAT THE IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR AFGHAN POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS BE IMPROVED AND EXPANDED.

5. AS THIS EMBASSY AND DEA PARIS HAVE BOTH ALREADY STATED, THESE
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TWO POTENTIALLY USEFUL PROPOSALS REQUIRE FACE-TO-FACE, NUTS- AND- BOLTS NEGOTIATIONS BY THE SEVERAL DEA AND UN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IF THEY ARE EVER TOGET OFF THE GROUND. WE AT KABUL HAVE ALREADY CARRIED THESE TALKS AS FAR AS WE CAN LOCALLY WITH MAGNUSSEN -- WHO HIMSELF HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR A GENEVA SESSION (FOR EXAMPLE, HE MUST EXPLAIN TO DEA PARIS WHY CERTAIN CONDITIONS OF THEIR OFFER SHOULD BE AMENDED -- AND HE MUST DISCUSS WITH HIS OWN PEOPLE THE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL HE WILL NEED IF THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE ADOPTED). AS EXPLAINED IN REFTTEL C, UNDP/AFGHANISTAN, ALTHOUGH AN INTERESTED PARTY, IS NOT COMPETENT TO NEGOTIATE THESE MATTERS IN BEHALF OF UNFDAC, UNDND, OR UNITU -- NOR IS THIS THE TIME TO INVOLVE THE GOA IN OUR HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS. WE ARE NOT PROPOSING NEW PROGRAMS AT THIS TIME -- ONLY THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING OPERATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL00665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780035-0432
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780130/aaaaazae.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29eb24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 640, 78 KABUL 301, 78 KABUL 235
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3726298
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COORDINATION OF US AND UN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: SNAR, US, AF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29eb24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014